

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00
DODE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 AID-05
EB-08 TRSE-00 COME-00 /064 W
-----242012Z 072708 /47

R 240915Z MAR 77

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7392
INFO AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY MANILA
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L SINGAPORE 1251

CINCPAC ALSO FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MARR, SN, NZ

SUBJ: MULDOON VISIT TO SINGAPORE

REF: SINGAPORE 1220

SUMMARY: NEW ZEALAND PRIME MINISTER MULDOON HAS COMPLETED A SUCCESSFUL VISIT TO SINGAPORE IN WHICH HE APPEARED TO DEVELOP A CLOSE RAPPORT WITH PRIME MINISTER LEE. THE LATTER DIVULGED CHARACTERISTICALLY PESSIMISTIC VIEWS ON VIET-NAM'S INTENTIONS TOWARD THE ASEAN COUNTRIES. MULDOON SAID HE WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT AN ASEAN INVITATION TO ATTEND THE ASEAN SUMMIT IN AUGUST, BUT WOULD NOT PAY FOR ADMISSION. THERE WAS VIRTUALLY NO DISCUSSION OF THE FUTURE OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN SINGAPORE WHICH WILL PROBABLY REMAIN HERE FOR A FEW MORE YEARS. END
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SUMMARY.

1. NEW ZEALAND DEPUTY HIGH COMMISSIONER DAWSON INFORMED DCM MARCH 24 THAT HIS PRIME MINISTER'S VISIT TO SINGAPORE (MARCH 20-22) HAD BEEN MOST SUCCESSFUL. HE SAID LEE KUAN YEW AND MULDOON, WHO SHARE MANY SIMILAR ATTITUDES AND BIASES, HIT IT OFF EXCEPTIONALLY WELL. THEIR PRIVATE MEETING DURING WHICH

NO OFFICIALS WERE PRESENT EXTENDED FORTY-FIVE MINUTES BEYOND THE ONE HOUR WHICH HAD BEEN ALLOCATED. MULDOON SUBSEQUENTLY TOLD HIS HIGH COMMISSIONER (HENSLEY) THAT THEY DISCUSSED A BROAD RANGE OF TOPICS INCLUDING THE INDIAN OCEAN, VIET-NAM, THE CARTER ADMINISTRATION, THE FORTHCOMING COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE, AND IDI AMIN, BUT MULDOON DID NOT DIVULGE TO HIS HIGH COMMISSIONER WHAT HAD BEEN SAID.

2. AT LEE'S DINNER FOR MULDOON (AT WHICH HENSLEY WAS PRESENT), LEE WAS PROFOUNDLY PESSIMISTIC CONCERNING HANOI'S FUTURE INTENTIONS TOWARD THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS OF SOUTHEAST ASIA. IN SHORT, LEE FELT THE SRV WOULD IN DUE COURSE DO EVERYTHING IN ITS POWER TO UNDERMINE THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS.

3. DAWSON SAID THAT WHEN GNZ AND GOS OFFICIALS JOINED THE TWO PRIME MINISTERS FOR THE LAST TWENTY MINUTES OF THEIR CONVERSATION, LEE ASKED MULDOON WHETHER HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH THE ASEAN HEADS OF GOVERNMENT FOLLOWING THE ASEAN SUMMIT MEETING IN AUGUST. MULDOON REPLIED THAT HE WAS NOT ANGLING FOR AN INVITATION, BUT WOULD PROBABLY ACCEPT IF ASEAN TOOK THE INITIATIVE OF INVITING HIM. HOWEVER, HE SAID NEW ZEALAND HAD NO INTENTION OF PURCHASING A TICKET FOR ADMISSION. HE POINTED OUT THAT NEW ZEALAND HAD CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED ASEAN AND WAS DEVOTING WHAT FUNDS IT COULD FOR ASEAN PROJECTS. HOWEVER, NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC SITUATION DID NOT PERMIT ANYTHING ELSE AT THE PRESENT TIME - NEITHER TRADE CONCESSIONS NOR ADDITIONAL AID TO ASEAN COUNTRIES OR FOR ASEAN PROJECTS. LEE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THIS, BUT POINTED OUT THAT ONCE NEW ZEALAND'S ECONOMIC POSITION HAD IMPROVED THE ASEAN GOVERNMENTS WOULD

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EXPECT THE GNZ TO MAKE A SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTION TO ASEAN'S ECONOMIC PROGRESS EITHER THROUGH TRADE CONCESSIONS OR AID.

4. DAWSON SAID THERE WAS HARDLY ANY DISCUSSION OF THE CONTINUED STATIONING OF NEW ZEALAND FORCES IN SINGAPORE IN MULDOON'S CONVERSATIONS WITH LEE AND DR. GOH KENG SWEE. DAWSON POINTED OUT THAT THE SUBJECT IS NOT AN ISSUE BETWEEN THE TWO GOVERNMENTS. NEW ZEALAND CANNOT AFFORD TO BUILD FACILITIES AT HOME WHICH WOULD BE NEEDED TO HOUSE THE TROOPS IF THEY RETURNED HOME, AND THE GOS HAS MADE IT CLEAR THAT THEY ARE WELCOME TO STAY IN SINGAPORE AS LONG AS THEY DESIRE. DAWSON THOUGHT IT LIKELY THAT NEW ZEALAND FORCES WOULD REMAIN IN SINGAPORE UNTIL 1980 AND WOULD NOT PREDICT BEYOND THAT DATE. HOLDRIDGE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, HEAD OF GOVERNMENT VISITS
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Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: SINGAPORE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770326/aaaaawbs.tel
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TAGS: PFOR, MARR, OVIP, SN, NZ, (MULDOON, ROBERT D)
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